

In re Patent Application of:
BORDEN LARSON, et al
Serial No. 10/689,557
Filing Date: 10/20/2003

Remarks

Applicant and the undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for his efforts and guidance provided during the examination of this application, and for support during this Request for Continuing Examination. Claims 1-16 remain in the case.

In the Office Action of 02/25/2005, Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 3,034,470 to Vanderfeltz et al. Claims 2, 7, and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanderfeltz '470 in view of US Patent No. 3,890,918 to Sell.

Independent claims 1, 6, and 11 are amended to include the feature, as exemplified by the language of claim 1, of the horizontal bridging portion located generally above and proximate the operator's station to at least amidships and forward thereof, wherein the bridging portion is sufficient for withstanding forces from towing a human performer, and a tow rope attachment point fitted with the bridging portion for attaching a tow rope thereto for towing the performer. Such an amendment more clearly presents the invention and shows clear distinction over the teachings of the prior art.

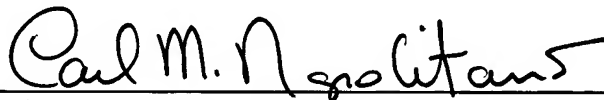
As illustrated by way of example with reference to Vanderfeltz '470, typical towing apparatus are carried at or near the stern of the towing vessel. It was not until the Applicants teaching that a structure as claimed and having a tow rope attachment point fitted at a bridging portion located generally above and proximate the operator station, as called for in independent claims 1, 6, and 11. Further, while the cited Japanese reference (JP '274) describes a towing apparatus, there is no teaching in the prior art to have such an apparatus operable as claimed. Indeed, it is only after the teachings of the Applicants that copies are presented, as illustrated by way of example with reference to the Japanese patents JP '693 and JP 389, Items N and O in the Notice of Cited references (Form PTO-892), clearly not prior art teachings based on the earlier priority dates of the application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments place this application

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in a condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully solicited. The Applicants and the undersigned would like to again thank the Examiner for his efforts in the examination of this application and for the examination of the claims now in the case. If the further prosecution of the application can be facilitated through telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

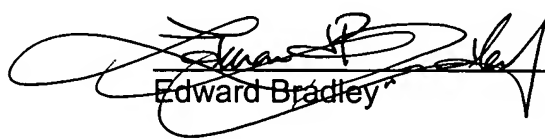
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, this 25th day of May, 2005.



Edward Bradley